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The Urban District of Kirkham



Annual Health Report

for the Year 1962



Medical Officer of Health:
C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.(Edin.).

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:
R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor O. Aiken (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. D. G. M. Sanderson, J.P.

Councillor J. Whiteside

Councillor H. Jones

Councillor Mrs. A. Danson

Councillor J. F. Eadon

Councillor C. Hornby

Councillor E. I. Rees

Councillor J. Whiteside (Woodlands)

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk : N. Swift, A.C.C.S.

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Annual Health Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1962

To the Chairman and Members of the
Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1962.

There has been no outstanding feature to comment on in the year's work.

The Birth Rate is again slightly up on the preceding year. This year the Death Rate is slightly less. There were three deaths of infants under one year compared with four in 1961 and of these three, two were due to congenital malformations of the infant. The Maternal Mortality rate has returned to Nil.

The only notifiable infectious disease which occurred in more than single figures was again Measles. Of this 69 cases were notified.

Looking at the causes of the 56 deaths which occurred during the year, 26 were due to diseases of the heart and circulation, 13, or half of these 26 being Coronary Diseases. This particular form of heart disease is one of the commoner causes of death in these days. Malignant growths caused nine deaths and occupy second place.

My thanks are due to Mr. Hall and Mr. Swift for their invaluable assistance, and to you, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the Health Committee for your interest and support.

Yours faithfully,

C. ROBERTSON WILSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	940
Home Population	5,290
(at the 1961 census the population was 4,811. The estimated mid-year home population in 1961 was 5,000).	
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/62	1,651
Rateable value at 31/12/62	£57,226
Amount produced by a penny rate	£223

VITAL STATISTICS

Births—92 live births (43 males and 49 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 15.7 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 14.7 per 1,000 in 1961. Illegitimate live births totalled 4.35% of total live births.

Stillbirths—There were 2 stillbirths during the year making a stillbirth rate of 21.3 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 12.3 in 1961.

The total number of live and stillbirths during the year was 94.

Deaths—56 deaths (28 males and 28 females) were registered during the year. The death rate at 12.2 per 1,000 compared with a death rate of 12.9 per 1,000 in 1961.

Infantile Mortality—3 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 4 in 1961.

The neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) was 21.7.

The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) was 21.7.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—Number of deaths 0. Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths was Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1962.

Cause of death	M.	F.	T.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	2	4
Coronary disease, angina	9	4	13
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	4	1	5
Other circulatory disease	1	—	1
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	—	3	3
Bronchitis	2	3	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Congenital malformations	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	5	7
All other accidents	—	2	2
	28	28	56

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district for the past five years :

Year	England and Wales		Kirkham Urban District	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1958	16.4	11.7	12.8	12.9
1959	16.5	11.6	13.6	13.3
1960	17.1	11.5	12.6	10.0
1961	17.4	12.0	14.7	12.9
1962	18.0	11.9	15.7	12.2

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel:—

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Other appointments held: Medical Officer of Health Boroughs of Lytham St. Annes and Fleetwood, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde, Preesall and Thornton Cleveleys, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector :

R. B. HALL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Hospital Facilities—For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Backpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the cases of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities—The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles operating through the County’s radio scheme.

Laboratory Facilities—Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in the Public Health Laboratories attached to Preston Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home—General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

Venereal Disease Service—Facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease are available at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics—A County Council Clinic is located in Moor Street and sessions held at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows :

Monday, a.m.—Minor Ailments Clinic.

Monday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

Tuesday, a.m.—Speech Therapy.

Tuesday, p.m.—Audiometric (alternate Tuesdays).

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m.—Chiropody.

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

Thursday, a.m.—Immunisations (third and fourth Thursdays in each month).

Thursday, a.m.—Minor Ailments.

Thursday, a.m.—Smallpox Vaccination (second Thursday in each month).

Thursday, p.m.—Child Welfare Clinic.

Friday, p.m.—Ante Natal (alternate Fridays).

Friday, a.m. and p.m.—Dental Clinic.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1962.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified												
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age unknown
Total Deaths													
Scarlet Fever													
Whooping Cough													
Acute Poliomyelitis:—													
Paralytic													
„ Non-Paralytic													
Measles (excluding Rubella) ...	69	4	7	9	8	9	32						
Diphtheria													
Dysentery	2		1		1								
Meningococcal Infection													
Ophthalmia Neonatorum													
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl.)	1										1		6
Smallpox													
Acute Encephalitis—Infective ...													
„ Post-Infectious													
Enteric or Typhoid Fever													
Paratyphoid Fevers... ..													
Erysipelas													
Food Poisoning	2						1		1				
Puerperal Pyrexia	3								2	1			
Other notifiable diseases													
TOTAL	77	4	8	9	9	9	33	0	3	1	1	0	6

TUBERCULOSIS

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

New Cases and Mortality during 1962

		—New Cases—				—Deaths—			
		Non Pulmon'y		Non Pulmon'y		Non Pulmon'y		Non Pulmon'y	
Age Periods		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0— 1	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0		0		0		0	

In 1961 there were 2 new cases notified, and 0 deaths reported from the disease.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health
Committee, Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fourth annual report on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1962.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The following are the number of closets, ashpits, dustbins, etc.

Water Closets	1,800
Waste Water Closets	1
Pail Closets	1
Privy Closets	0
Privy Ashpits	0
Dry Ashpits	0
Dustbins	1,850
Cesspools	0
Septic Tanks	15
Houses not connected directly to sewer	33
Houses on Water Carriage System	1,651
Percentage of Closets on Water Carriage System	99.99
Percentage of Houses connected to General Sewage System	98.00

Sewers and Sewerage System—The sewerage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs into tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewerage disposal works consists of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks and fourteen sludge beds. These were constructed in 1941.

The responsibility for the main sewer and sewerage works is held by the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee.

One hundred and forty-nine new houses were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

Rivers and Streams—One main stream—Wrongway Brook—runs through the district, entering from the Fylde Rural District in a culvert under the railway and discharging into Carr Brook and finally into Dow Brook. This stream forms a portion of the Urban District boundary on the easterly side of the town, and provides most of the natural drainage for the district.

A second stream, commencing at the Bye-Pass end of Orders Lane, runs down Orders Lane, under Poulton Street and Mill Street in a brick culvert, and discharges into Carr Brook at the north-easterly corner of the Flax Mill land.

Water Supply—Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have supplies available from this source and all have piped supplies available within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. No complaints were received concerning the water supply.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary of Complaints Received—307 complaints were received during the year, of which many were from Council houses for repairs requiring attention. 639 visits were made to premises in connection with this work. 198 nuisances were discovered, of which 191 were abated, leaving 7 to carry forward to 1963. 184 informal notices were served during the year, whilst the number of statutory notices served after reports being made to the Committee was 7. In the main, most complaints were dealt with after consultation with the landlord concerned. In spite of the high cost of maintenance and low rentals, property is reasonably well maintained. In most cases the tenants are reasonable and do most internal repairs themselves. Advantage is being taken to improve old property under the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959.

DISINFESTATIONS

Two houses were disinfested during 1962. The method of treatment was by D.D.T. spray and/or D.D.T. or similar type of smoke generator. In the case of bugs a combination of the two methods—spraying first, followed by smoke generators—has proved most effective. Free issues of insect powder are available, and no charge is made for disinfestation in the area of private dwelling houses.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Houses were visited for investigation in connection with infectious diseases, and instructions were given and disinfectant supplied to the householders for disinfection of premises. There was no demand for disinfection. Library books were collected from houses where infectious disease occurred and were disinfected before return to the Library.

SCHOOLS

The schools were inspected on occasion and were satisfactory apart from minor repairs. All are supplied with water by the Fylde Water Board and all have water closets connected to the sewer.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or offensive trades within the district.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There were two caravan sites licensed during 1962, for permanent residential use and it is estimated that some thirty caravans were permanently occupied by 70 residents. Some of the conditions attached to the site licences have not been fully complied with and successful prosecutions were taken out against each site.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The factories in the district were visited and consultations made with the boilermen in an attempt to improve the smoke nuisance. Few complaints were received and no observations were taken on chimneys. No legal actions were taken.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

During the year no further applications from persons to be registered as Dealers in Old Metals under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were received.

Certificates for means of escape in case of fire are now given by Lancashire County Council Fire Department.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council carried out all refuse collection and disposal. They have one fore and aft tipper type wagon engaged regularly on this work and the tractor is used for levelling the tip and collecting salvage.

Disposal is carried out at Carr Lane and Coronation Road tips. The soil is first removed by dragline and then replaced on top as the tips proceed. Some 2 acres of reclaimed land are let to a farmer and several successful crops have been grown. The old destructor was retained in use for burning unsound meat, unsalvageable paper and factory wastes.

The number of men engaged on the work is as follows:—

5 Ashbinmen	}	Full time
1 Salvage Baler		
1 Driver		
2 Salvage Collectors	}	Part time
1 Tractor Driver		

Additional labour has been engaged from time to time on salvage collection and baling.

No serious labour difficulties have been met with in the past year, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain a weekly collection without increasing the cost of collection. The district is growing rapidly and so far as refuse collection is concerned every new property consists of a drive with a long walk to collect a bin—the time taken to empty bins on new properties is almost treble that of terrace-type dwellings. There is an increase in the collection of salvage especially as most food products are now packed in cartons which return as salvage and this again increases the collector's duties.

The bonus scheme for the men continued. All waste paper was sent to Thames Board Mills Ltd., under contract. Loose tins continued to be baled but none were sold during the year.

The total income during the year from the sale of salvage was £1,132.

The tonnage salvaged was as follows :—

	Tons		Cwts.		Qtrs.		Lbs.
Waste Paper (all grades)	124	...	4	...	2	...	16
Rags	9	...	19	...	0	...	0
Cast Iron, Scrap Metal, etc.	0	...	2	...	2	...	16
	134		6		1		4

The total cost of refuse collection and disposal was £6,486, equal to a 2/5d. rate.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

Visits were made to premises where foodstuffs were handled or sold.

The number of visits made to food premises during the year, including the slaughterhouse, was 151.

Some minor improvements have been made to food premises, most of which were carried out as a result of informal action. This work is proceeding. Follow-up visits have been made.

The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction.

157lbs. Tinned Ham, 6lbs. Corned Beef, 6lbs. Jellied Veal.

One slaughterhouse is in operation in the district. All meat is inspected and the premises are satisfactory. The owners of this slaughterhouse have been most co-operative and improvements are being made from time to time.

Carcases inspected and condemned were as follows :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	238	—	—	628	311
Number inspected	238	—	—	628	311
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	63	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	26.89%	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis :					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned .	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat condemned (including offal) was 805lbs.

Milk supply and distribution—There is one large dairy and pasteurising plant in the town supplying milk to the surrounding districts. The supervision of this plant is done by the Lancashire County Council. The number of registered distributors is as follows :—

Dairies in the district 8

Shops in the district other than dairies 5

No complaints were received in regard to the milk supply. Only “specially designated” milk (that is, pasteurised, sterilised or Tuberculin tested milk) can now be sold in Kirkham under the provisions of The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1955, which came into force on the 6th December, 1955.

Ice Cream—There was one registration for the manufacture of ice cream. The premises have been inspected and always found to be well run and maintained. Thirty dealers are registered for the sale and storage of ice cream. The general standard of vehicles and equipment is high. No complaints were received in regard to ice cream.

Made-up Foods, Potted Meats, etc.—Four premises are registered to manufacture made-up meat products. A good standard of cleanliness was maintained.

Food sampling by the County Council—Forty-eight samples were taken by County Inspectors during the year, comprising :—

37 Milk (including 3 Channel Islands Milk), 1 Lard, 1 Glycerin B.P., 1 Coffee and chicory essence, 1 canned fish, 1 Christmas pudding, 1 Dried fruit, 1 Turkish delight, 1 Edible Christmas tree decorations, 1 Pancake and Yorkshire pudding mixture, 1 Meat, canned, 1 Ground almonds.

All samples proved to be genuine, with the exception of one formal sample of milk, the freezing point of which indicated the presence of 1.3% extraneous water. The vendor was cautioned and a further sample obtained.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Three visits were made in connection with the Shops Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	45	38	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	45	38	2	—

(2) DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted (5)
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
	(2)	(3)	(4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	2	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	2	—

RAG-FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Three premises are registered under the above Act. No samples were taken. The amount of this material used is very small.

RODENT CONTROL

Twenty-nine properties infested with rats or mice were treated during the year by the Rodent Operator. This man has had Ministry training in modern methods and has had much success. The standard Ministry methods are used. The sewers were baited but no takes were recorded.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Fifteen premises are licensed to store petroleum and one to store cellulose. In every case the petroleum is stored in underground tanks. The total storage capacity is 32,500 gallons. No notices were served under these Acts, and no new premises were licensed.

HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books	1,651
Number of new houses erected during the year :	
(a) By the Local Authority	0
(b) By other bodies or persons	149
Number of houses demolished during the year ...	0
Number of houses closed during the year	1
Number of persons displaced	5
Number of discretionary grant applications received during the year	1
Number of houses in which improvement works were completed during the year	0
Number of standard grant applications received during the year	31
Number of houses at which standard grant works were completed during the year	23

Housing Conditions—The general housing conditions are fair, most houses being small to medium size two and three bedroom types. There is quite a proportion of older property in the district suitable for improvement and it is felt that more advantage could be taken of improvement grants to bring property up to a reasonable standard.

There are sufficient houses being erected in Kirkham by private enterprise to cater for the existing demand but those persons needing accommodation and those obtaining it are not the same persons and consequently the increased number of private houses being built is having little effect on the waiting list for Council houses.

Land has been obtained for Old Persons' Bungalows and, as the year ended, various layout schemes were being considered.

The district is rapidly being built up and most sites where there is planning permission for housing development will be completed within the next year or two. It is then possible that more land will be made available for housing but this is limited and the district could well be completely built up in the not too distant future.

The Council have continued to stand as guarantors for persons buying properties through Building Societies, but during the year no advances to prospective buyers were made due to the high rates of interest prevailing.

GENERAL

The Department is also responsible for the maintenance and cleansing of highways, supervision of new buildings, street lighting, parks, baths and recreation grounds. The Department will endeavour to proceed with the making-up of all unmade streets as soon as the Council authorise same.

A growing problem in the Department is that of Housing Management, there being a total of almost 300 houses to be managed. As the houses become older the repairs must increase and inspections, orders, accounts, etc., for these houses are responsible for occupying an ever increasing amount of my staff's time.

STAFF

My thanks are expressed for the efficient service rendered by Mr. N. Swift, the Clerk of the Department, and to other members of the Staff, the Foreman and all Workmen, go my thanks for their excellent and willing co-operation.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. HALL.

